

Now, there is a proposal that Michigan is currently moving forward which would allow directional drilling under the Great Lakes.

□ 1045

Why Michigan would do this to the 18 percent of the world's freshest waters found in the Great Lakes; 90, 95 percent of all of the fresh water in the United States is found at the Great Lakes, and it serves the homes of over 34 million people. Why we would threaten the vitality of the Great Lakes for a few drops of gas and oil, even during these energy needs, is unconscionable.

If we take a look, the reserves are there. Even if we tap with 30 new wells, they propose 30 new wells, we would have enough oil for only 3 weeks, and we would have enough natural gas for 5 weeks. Only Michigan seeks to do this. The Governor of Ohio recently said, no oil and gas drilling. The Wisconsin State Senate has passed resolutions in the past saying no oil and gas drilling underneath our Great Lakes.

So I am asking my colleagues today as we do the energy and water bill to please take a look at what we are doing. We have to conserve, we have to be resourceful, but let us not drill for oil and gas in the Great Lakes. Join this bipartisan amendment.

IT IS TIME FOR ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that Californians have to go through these blackouts, and it is unfair to the people in California. But what is really unfair is that Californians have a Governor who refuses to take leadership and responsibility for this problem.

California politicians have done a disservice to the Californians. Gray Davis has been asleep at the switch. It is time to stop pointing fingers and start solving problems. Instead of spending \$30,000 a month on political consultants and polls, and instead of pointing fingers, Gray Davis needs to find solutions to increasing electricity in his State to stop blackouts. Governor Davis should put people before politics.

Mr. Speaker, blackouts in California leave the State's economy dead. When California dies, America's economy becomes seriously ill. What we need is answers and solutions, not partisan, attack-style politics. We all need to work together, both Democrats and Republicans, to solve California's problems. Creating a balanced, fair and comprehensive energy plan for the future that utilizes our coal and our natural gas will safeguard our national economy and secure an adequate livelihood for all Americans.

AS GOES CALIFORNIA GOES THE COUNTRY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, with two oilmen in the White House, it is no surprise that this administration has turned its back on consumers and sided with big oil special interests, but that certainly does not make it acceptable.

What is acceptable is this: recognizing that we need to increase renewable energy sources while reducing demand for electricity. We can do this by promoting and using more efficient energy technologies. These are the policies that will protect our environment, will guarantee a better future for our children.

Since passing the National Energy Policy Act in 1992, Congress has generally ignored energy issues, but power problems in California and higher prices for natural gas and oil are going to impact our entire country. These changes have brought energy back to the top of our Nation's agenda.

The energy shortage we are experiencing in California is a signal to the rest of our Nation. As goes California goes the country.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, when politicians talk about needing a comprehensive energy policy instead of price controls, I bet a lot of Americans wonder what we are talking about.

Well, consider this fact: ninety-seven percent of the power plants currently under construction are natural gas-fired power plants needed to meet the increased demand for electricity. Natural gas that is typically produced during the summer for storage and later used during the winter is, instead, being used for electricity generation. Basically, we use natural gas to keep our electricity rates lower in the summer, but in the end we pay higher rates on our natural gas use in the summer. Not a very comprehensive policy, is it?

President Bush has proposed the first comprehensive energy plan in a decade that will increase efficiency, improve how our energy is delivered, diversify our energy sources, protect the environment, and assist low-income Americans through these current price increases.

Americans want affordable energy and a clean, safe environment.

WORKING TO SOLVE CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to let our colleagues know that today in the State of California, one of our newest generators just went online. Governor Gray Davis has done a tremendous job in trying to make sure that the energy and our lights do not go out in the State of California. He visited with us last week and met with the Senate Committee on Energy Oversight and talked about all the earnest effort that he has made, and Californians, to conserve energy.

Now, we deserve more attention and support by FERC and this administration. We should provide more energy funding for renewable energy, for conservation, and obviously provide relief for those ratepayers, the people that pay the bills. We expect to see a refund. Maybe it will not be the \$9 billion that Gray Davis is asking for, but surely the people of California and the Western States that are suffering from this energy crisis deserve the very best attention. They are grappling with this problem. They need to have our support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members today to sign the discharge petition, because it is necessary for us to send a message to all citizens of the United States that we are with them on the energy conservation measures.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 49, answered "present" 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 195] YEAS—368

Abercrombie	Barton	Bonilla
Ackerman	Bass	Bono
Akin	Becerra	Boswell
Allen	Bentsen	Boucher
Andrews	Bereuter	Boyd
Armey	Berkley	Brady (TX)
Baca	Berman	Brown (FL)
Bachus	Berry	Brown (OH)
Baker	Biggert	Brown (SC)
Baldacci	Bilirakis	Bryant
Baldwin	Bishop	Burr
Ballenger	Blagojevich	Buyer
Barcia	Blumenauer	Callahan
Barr	Blunt	Calvert
Barrett	Boehlert	Camp
Bartlett	Boehner	Cannon